

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) A composite board comprising inorganic or cellulosic materials or both inorganic and cellulosic materials and a latex binder comprising a copolymer having [with] a T_g of at least about 80°C [such that the resulting ceiling board maintains dimensional stability with increased temperature and humidity] wherein [and] the resulting [ceiling] composite board has a modulus of rupture of at least about 130 psi as measured by ASTM 367-78, whereby, upon exposing a 1-1/2 x 6 inch strip of the composite board to 90 percent relative humidity at 94°F for 96 hours, the composite board maintains dimensional stability.

~~2~~ Please cancel Claims 1-17.

Please add the following new claims:

B2 ~~7~~ 24. The composite board of Claim ~~18~~ wherein the copolymer comprises a hard monomer having as a homopolymer a T_g of at least about 80°C and a soft monomer having as a homopolymer a T_g of less than about 35°C.

~~8~~ 25. The composite board of Claim ~~24~~ wherein the hard monomer is present in an amount of from about 50 to 99 weight percent and the soft monomer is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 50 weight percent.

~~9~~ 26. The composite board of Claim ~~18~~ wherein the modulus of rupture is at least about 140 psi.

~~10~~ 27. The composite board of Claim ~~18~~ wherein the copolymer has a T_g of from about 85° to about 110°C.

~~28.~~ The composite board of Claim ~~18~~ wherein the copolymer has a T_g of from about 85° to about 120°C.

Respectfully submitted,

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